



**The “Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program” is seeking
“Forest Legacy Project Proposals” for funding consideration in the
Federal Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations process.**

A request for proposals for the Forest Legacy Program has been announced by the USDA Forest Service. The Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program is now accepting project proposals for consideration in the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 appropriation process.

Project proposals submitted in previous years, but not funded, must be submitted again and comply with this announcement for consideration in FY 2016. Funding should be available for successful project proposals in the spring of 2016.

Completed project proposals, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the appropriate Forest Legacy Area Sponsor listed below, and received no later than 5:00 PM on September 15, 2014. Please **mail one paper copy**, and **send an e-mail** with proposal and supporting documentation as attachments (or mail a CD with appropriate files) to:

Connecticut Valley (Western Valley & Holyoke Range)

Kristin DeBoer
Kestrel Land Trust
P.O. Box 1016
Amherst, MA 01004
(413) 549-1097
info@kestreltrust.org

Estabrook Woods

Joan Ferguson
Concord Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 141
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-6526
info@concordland.org

Nashua River Greenway

Al Futterman
Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-0299
alfutterman@NashuaRiverWatershed.org

North Quabbin Corridor

Leigh Youngblood
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 248-2051 x20
youngblood@mountgrace.org

Heritage Corridor

Ed Hood
MassConn Sustainable Partnership
30 Peck Road
Monson, MA 01057
(508)347-9144
ehood@opacumlt.org

Stockbridge Yokun Ridge & Taconic Range

Tad Ames
Berkshire Natural Resource Council
20 Bank Row
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-499-0596
tames@bnrc.net



Also, **mail one paper copy**, and **send an e-mail** with the proposal and supporting documentation as attachments (or mail a CD with appropriate files) of your completed project proposals **no later than 5:00 PM on September 15, 2014** to:

Michael J. Fleming, CF
Forest Legacy Program
Department of Conservation & Recreation
355 West Boylston Street
Clinton, MA 01510

The Cover Letter, Interest Owner Letter of Commitment, Landowner Participation Letter, and Letters of Support, mailed to the above must include original signatures.

Forest Legacy project proposals must also be entered into the "Forest Legacy Information System" (FLIS) **no later than 5:00PM on September 15, 2014** for project proposals to be considered complete and eligible for review and ranking by the Massachusetts Forest Legacy Committee. The appropriate Forest Legacy Area Sponsor and the Forest Legacy Program Coordinator must be notified by e-mail, **no later than 5:00PM on September 15, 2014**, that a Forest Legacy Project Proposal has been entered into FLIS.

All project proposals must:

- Meet the goals of the Massachusetts Forest Legacy Program.
- Identify any federal lands or federal investments the project complements.
- Comment to what extent public access will be provided (Full, None, Restricted), a description of the type of public access that will be allowed, and an explanation of why public access will be restricted or not be provided.
- Name the "Project" using a term that will **not** identify the landowner's name.
- Identify each "Tract" in priority order (Do **not** use landowner's name in FLIS. Identify tracts as: Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, etc.).
- Round up to the nearest \$5,000.00 the "Total Tract Cost" ("Tract Cost" in FLIS), the "Forest Legacy Program Funding Request" (FLP Funding" in FLIS), and the "Cost Share Information Amount" ("Non-Federal Cost-Share" in FLIS) for each Tract on the Tract Information Worksheet.
- For multiple year proposals (phased projects), indicate which phase of the project is being considered this year, how many phases have been completed, and whether additional phases will be necessary if this phase is not fully funded. Individual phases will compete each year as stand alone projects against all other proposed projects.
- For new proposals, indicate whether the project can be phased and what would make up the phases. (Be advised that by stating the project may NOT be phased there is the risk that the project prioritization panel will opt not to fund the project at all.)
- A "Project's" total funding request may not exceed more than \$7,000,000.00
- Include the following **supporting documentation** to be considered complete:
 1. Cover Letter containing the following information:
 - a. Project Partners Contact Information: name, organization/agency name, address, phone, e-mail
 - b. Is this a multi-State project? If so, explain and list state(s) involved. Include letter of support from partner(s) in other state(s).
 - c. Description of the project and how the project proposal will meet the criteria in the "Massachusetts Assessment of Need" (AON), and protect the **public benefits** and **environmental values** identified for the specific "Forest Legacy Area"...

2. Completion of “Forest Legacy Project Information Worksheet” and data entry¹ into the “Forest Legacy Information System”(FLIS). The Template that must be used for this Worksheet is posted on the [MA Forest Legacy Program website](#).
3. Completion of “Forest Legacy Tract Information Worksheet”, and data entry into the “Forest Legacy Information System”(FLIS). The Template that must be used for this Worksheet is posted on the [MA Forest Legacy Program website](#).
4. Interest Owner Letter of Commitment: Letter from State Agency, Municipality, or Federal Government (on appropriate letterhead and with authorized original signature) stating that they agree to hold the Forest Legacy Title Interests (Fee and / or CR). The Template that must be used for this letter is posted on the [MA Forest Legacy Program website](#).
5. Landowner Participation Letter: Letter signed by the landowner(s) (original signatures and all legal owners must sign) stating that one of the Project Partners (state who) has explained the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program, reviewed the Forest Legacy Program Conservation Restriction/Deed Template, and agrees to include their property for consideration in the FY2015 application process. Tracts where the interests to be acquired are a Conservation Restriction shall also state that someone (state who) has explained what a Forest Stewardship Plan is and the requirement to have an approved (by the State Forester) Forest Stewardship Plan. The Template that must be used for this letter is posted on the [MA Forest Legacy Program website](#).
6. Budget Information: A “Budget Information Worksheet” must be filled-in and submitted with the project proposal. The Template that must be used for this Worksheet is posted on the [MA Forest Legacy Program website](#).
7. Boundary / Shapefile(s): A shapefile with the boundary of the land to be protected for each tract must be included. Only include those files which are part of the tract’s shapefile (at minimum .dbf, .prj, .shp, .shx). With the exception of the file extensions, all files associated with the shapefile must have the same name (i.e. tract 1.shp, tract 1.dbf, tract 1.prj, tract 1.shx). Bundle all files associated with your tract boundary into a .zip file folder.
8. Photos: Up to 4 Photos can be included in the application.
9. Letters of Support: Letters of support from all supporting parties with original signatures.

The information listed below is for your review and consideration in the preparation of project proposals:

- Forest Legacy “Project, Tract, and Budget Information Worksheets”; “Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS) Users Guide”; Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Submitting Images to FLIS”; “Project Scoring Guidance”; “Map of Forest Legacy Areas in Massachusetts”; “Guide & Checklist to Closing a Forest Legacy Project” (CR & FEE), “A Study of 2008, 2009, and 2010 Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Project Ratings”); “Assessment of Need Documents”; “National Review Panel TIPS”; and Links to the USDA Forest Legacy Program web sites can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/forest-legacy-program.html>
- The USDA Forest Service, Final Amended “Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines” (June 30, 2003) (As Amended December 21, 2011). are available at: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/legacy/resources/pdf/FLP_Guidelines-Final_6-30-03_as_Amended_51812.pdf

Please contact Mike Fleming at 978-368-0126 Ext. 114 or mike.fleming@state.ma.us if you have any questions...

¹ Contact Sponsor or Coordinator for information and assistance with FLIS data entry...